



# Tupelo Times

DEC., JAN., & FEB. 2012/2013 VOL. 9, NO. 1

*The Newsletter of the* **Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center**

## The Mississippi-More Than Just a River

I am not a native of southeast Missouri. I am the child of parents who were born and raised in this region, in the Scott City area. I grew up in northern Virginia, but I was very familiar with the Mississippi River. Trips back to the area to visit family included memories of flooded roads and views of the Mississippi from my preferred window seat on airplanes.

One ritual from these visits remains vivid in my memory. We always managed to fit in a visit to Commerce, Missouri, usually early in our stay. There, we would park on the Mississippi riverbank, eat lunch, watch the river, and listen to stories told by my mother and aunt. We heard stories about 19th-century relatives who farmed river bottomland near Illmo; the Mississippi freezing over; boat wrecks, and monster gars and catfish that made the river their home. I remember listening, laughing, watching the river, and thinking how lucky I was to be sitting right there at the Mississippi's edge.

Years passed and I eventually moved to southeast Missouri. I enrolled at Southeast Missouri State University and took some history classes. Several of these classes stirred my interest in the Mississippi River. I became more aware of its significance in our national history. I found myself wondering about how the river had physically changed through time. I became curious about the impressions early European explorers and settlers had of the Mississippi. As I learned more about the river and the people who made this region their home, I became fascinated by the story being played out here.

The Ice Ages that took place on Earth shaped the Mississippi River Valley. The steady grinding advance of glaciers carved out land features. When the climate warmed, the ice sheets melted and retreated, leaving behind deposits of boulders and crushed rock. Glacial ice melt lakes and rivers formed. These water features

further shaped the landscape, moving and depositing dirt and organic material. Simply put, this is how the Mississippi River and its basin came to be.

The Mississippi is part of the largest river system in North America. We here in southeast Missouri are most familiar with the part known as the Middle Mississippi. The Middle Mississippi stretches for 190 miles from its confluence with the Missouri River at St. Louis to its confluence with the Ohio River at Cairo. This region has been known for its fertile land and plentiful wildlife for hundreds of years. European explorers became aware of the Mississippi some 500 years ago, but settlers did not come to the area in any noticeable amount until the mid-1700s. One can find many written accounts from this period describing the quality of land and large, established wildlife populations living within the Middle Mississippi River Valley. These favorable qualities were offset by the seasonal flooding cycle. Routine flooding presented very real difficulties for establishing settlements while, at the same time, contributing to the wealth of the region.

This struggle between man and nature continues to shape our relationship with the land. We find ourselves daily confronted with the challenge of how to preserve our well-being without destroying that which makes our quality of life here in southeast Missouri so special. I believe by appreciating nature, by paying attention to the rhythms of the seasons, and by maintaining our connection with the land we can continue to enjoy the benefits of living here. The Mississippi River Valley is filled with beautiful natural vistas, abundant wildlife, and a vibrant history. Be happy you live here.

--Sue Corvick  
Volunteer

### Did you know...

The nature center is open from 5-8pm one Thursday evening each month to better serve you. Details on calendar pages.



# Tadpoles

(Shared nature experiences for 0-2 year olds and an attending adult.)

## December

Saturday, December 15-10am

### Gifts for the Birds

Red, blue, gray, and brown. All the little birds flock to your backyard in search of food. Give them a gift for the holidays by learning more about them and making a special treat. **Ages 0-2. Registration begins December 1.**

## January

Saturday, January 19-10am

### River Critters

Rivers are such amazing and complex habitats. Engage your little one in stories and activities that will help them to become more familiar with the interesting creatures that call the river home. **Ages 0-2. Registration begins January 2.**

## February

Saturday, February 23-10am

### Maple Tree Treats

There is a very special tree in Missouri called the sugar maple. From this tree, we can collect sap to make yummy treats. Celebrate the sugaring season with your little one by learning all about these trees. **Ages 0-2. Registration begins February 1.**



# Mudpuppies

(45-minute programs for 3-6 year olds and an attending adult.)

## December

Saturday, December 8-11am or 1pm  
Tuesday, December 11-9am or 11am

### Have a Green Holiday!

Celebrate the holidays while being kind to the environment. Put the words "reduce, reuse, and recycle" to use as we make some eco-friendly gifts. **Ages 3-6. Early registration begins November 15.**

## January

Saturday, January 12-11am or 1pm  
Tuesday, January 15-9am or 11am

### Regal Eagles

With a wingspan the size of a car and a nest as deep as 10 feet, the eagle is not easily ignored. Soar on over to learn more about this majestic bird we call our nation's symbol. **Ages 3-6. Registration begins January 2.**

## February

Saturday, February 9-11am or 1pm  
Tuesday, February 12-9am or 11am

### Sugar Snow

Why is a snowfall in February called a "sugar snow?" Because it's maple sugaring season! Learn what makes the sap flow in a tree and how we can use some of that sap to make tasty treats. **Ages 3-6. Registration begins February 1.**



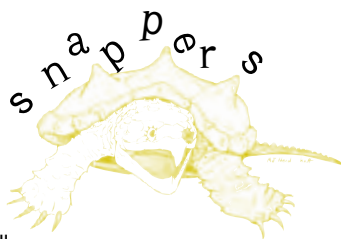
## Kids' Club Program Information

## December

Saturday, December 15  
10-11:30am

### Build a birdfeeder

Build a bird feeder to take home and help out the hungry birds this winter. A bird feeder makes a great gift as well. **Ages 7-11. Registration begins December 1.**



## January

Saturday, January 12  
10-11:30am

### Dissecting Owl Pellets

Ever wonder just what an owl eats? We will find out for sure in this fascinating study as we dissect real owl pellets. **Ages 7-11. Registration begins January 2.**

## February

Saturday, February 2  
10-11:30am

### More Fun with Maps

Maps are a wonderful way to plan out a small excursion or an entire vacation. Learn some map basics followed by some practical and fun exercises. **Ages 7-11. Early registration begins January 15.**

## January

Saturday, January 26  
10am-3pm

### Eagle Watch

Test your eagle eyes as you search for our nation's icon – the bald eagle. We'll travel to Duck Creek Conservation Area to view wintering bald eagles. Learn why these areas are ideal eagle habitats, what the birds eat, how they live, and much more **Ages 12-15. Registration required.**





# December Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **December 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

## 1 Winter Trout Fishing: Tackle and Technique *Saturday, 10-11:30am*

Don't put away your fishing rods for the winter - trout season is here! You'll discover great tips and techniques for trout fishing locally, as well as at trout parks throughout Missouri. **Ages 8 and up.** Registration required.

*Early registration begins November 15*

## 5 Homeschool Special – Backyard Bird Feeding *Wednesday, 1-3pm*

It's that time of year again; time to feed the birds! Join us as we make several tasty treats and feeders for the birds. After this program you'll have the knowledge and equipment needed to attract those feathered friends into your backyard. Select from one of two days to attend. **Ages 6 and up.** Registration required.

*Early registration begins November 15*

## 6 Blood Drive *Thursday, 2-7pm*



Surviving the winter can be tough-for people and wildlife! Donate blood to help people in need this winter; then learn how animals survive in the forest by attending a puppet show. \*Blood supplies are very low during the holidays, please consider donating at this critical time. **Ages 16 and up** (16 year-olds must complete paperwork with parental consent prior to donating). Walk-ins will be accepted, but donors are encouraged to register for appointment times at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

## 6 Nature Center at Night Forest Puppets *Thursday, 5-8pm*



Take a lively look at what goes on in the forest through the eyes of the animals that live there. Attend one of two 50-minute puppet presentations at 6pm or 7pm. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.

## 7 Homeschool Special – Backyard Bird Feeding *Friday, 1-3pm*

See details for December 5 program. **Ages 6 and up.** Registration required.

*Early registration begins November 15*

## 8 Nature Art Nature's Decor

*Saturday, 10am, 12:30pm or 2:30pm*  
Deck the halls with boughs of holly...the holidays are just around the corner and we're in the mood to decorate! We'll use nature's resources to create wonderful winter wreaths, swags, and garlands. Bring a grapevine wreath, and we'll provide everything else to do your decorating. **Ages 18 and up.** Registration required.

*Early registration begins November 15*



## 11 Noppadol Paothong: Save the Last Dance *Tuesday, 6:30-8pm*

Professional wildlife photographer Noppadol Paothong will showcase his book "Save the Last Dance – A Story of North American Grassland Grouse." He will share stories from his 11-year journey documenting these highly endangered and extraordinary birds, including stunning images of the species' mating rituals and habitats. There will be a book signing before and after the program. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.

## 15 Family Birdfeeders *Saturday, 1-4pm*



Help our feathered friends get through the winter by building and taking home a bird feeder. We'll also learn what kinds of food birds like in their feeder. Drop by the nature center anytime between 1pm and 4pm to build your feeder. **Please no organized groups. Ages 8 and up with an adult mentor.** Registration required.

## 15 Rediscover the Mighty Mississippi *Saturday, 1-3pm*

Do you take the mighty Mississippi River for granted—or even forget it is there! So many of us see the river only as a means of recreation or commercial transportation, but think about what this river meant to people 200 years ago. Spend an afternoon discovering the majestic Mississippi River as we look at maps and letters that chronicle the tale of its history and origins. You'll walk away with an appreciation of this local gem as you are reminded of what a treasure we have in southeast Missouri. **All ages. No registration required.**

### Christmas Bird Counts

In its 113th year, the Christmas Bird Count will involve various opportunities for you to assist with bird research during late December and early January. No experience necessary to participate. For details and regional locations/dates, check under "listings" at [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org), [www.mo.audubon.org](http://www.mo.audubon.org), or email [sebirding@yahoo.com](mailto:sebirding@yahoo.com).

### Temporary Display

Tired of cold weather? "Focus on Summer" is a collection of photography by Ste. Genevieve native Jenna Papin. This December exhibit is sure to make you yearn for the long days of summer again.

## Nature Shop Sale December 18-22

**HOLIDAY SALE**

Last minute shopping got you flustered? Looking for a unique gift? Escape the hustle and bustle and find what you're looking for to complete your gift list in the nature shop during our 20%\* off holiday sale!

\*Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply.

## 29 Discovery Table Animal Clues *Saturday, 1-4pm*

Now that it's winter we might be wondering, "Where did all the animals go?" Although some of our animals spend the winter sleeping, many wild animals are still out and about. We don't always see them but we can investigate clues left behind. Stop by and take a close-up look at some of these animal signs, then try your hand at solving a few animal mysteries. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.

### Holiday Closings

The nature center will be closed:

December 25

January 1

The White Oak Trace trail will remain open.

## Just Ask...

Q. Do snakes hibernate?

A. In a technical sense, the answer is no. True hibernation takes place when an animal slows its heart rate and breathing. This is done to conserve energy. A hibernating animal appears to be dead and does not wake easily. Snakes are not true hibernators but do go through a state of dormancy called torpor. Reptiles, like snakes, are cold-blooded and are not able to survive freezing temperatures. Cold-blooded animals are unable to regulate their body temperatures; therefore they must seek out shade in the summer and shelter in the winter. Often snakes will overwinter in old animal dens, cave entrances, under logs, rocks, or leaves. During this time they typically do not eat but may become active on unusually warm days.





# January Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **January 2** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

## Temporary Display

"Save the Last Dance - A Story of North American Grassland Grouse" will showcase the nature photography of professional wildlife photographer Noppadol Paothong in January.

## 10 Nature Center at Night Winter Tree ID Thursday, 5-8pm

Can you identify a tree solely by its bark or the shape of its trunk? Can you read the subtle clues of a leafless twig to figure out what kind of tree it came from? Meander through our "indoor forest" and learn to identify some of our common Missouri trees, so the next time you see one of those delicate black silhouettes against a clear winter sky, you'll know exactly what kind of tree it is. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.**

*We work with you and for you to sustain healthy forests, fish and wildlife.*

## 10 Nature Art Building Woodland Memories Thursday, 6:30-8pm

Got cabin fever? A walk in the winter woods is the perfect cure! Then, join us to create a two-page scrapbook layout that you fill with pictures from your walk. You'll be surprised by what you see on a brisk winter day. Select from one of two days to attend. **Ages 16 and up. Registration required.**

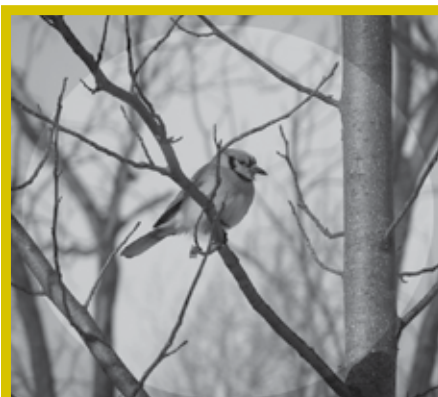


## 19 Nature Art Building Woodland Memories Saturday, 2-3:30pm

See details for January 10 program. **Ages 16 and up. Registration required.**

## 26 Discovery Table Missouri Furbearers Saturday, 1-4pm

Hunted for over 11,000 years, furbearers comprise a diverse group of animals and remain one of Missouri's most important natural resources today. Drop in between 1pm and 4pm to see and touch the pelts of several of our Missouri furbearers and find out why these mammals are so valued for their fur. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.**



**Blue Jay**  
*Cyanocitta cristata*

### Who's hogging all the food?

The Blue jay is a familiar sight and sound all year round in Missouri. Jays are part of a crafty family of birds known as corvids, of which crows belong as well. Blue jays are often unpopular at bird feeders as they appear to eat massive quantities of seeds. Actually, blue jays collect as many seeds as they can in their throat pouch (gullet) and then fly off to hide them for later. Comically, they forget where most of them are hidden. In this way they provide food sources for other animals and help to spread valuable habitat trees like oaks and hickories.

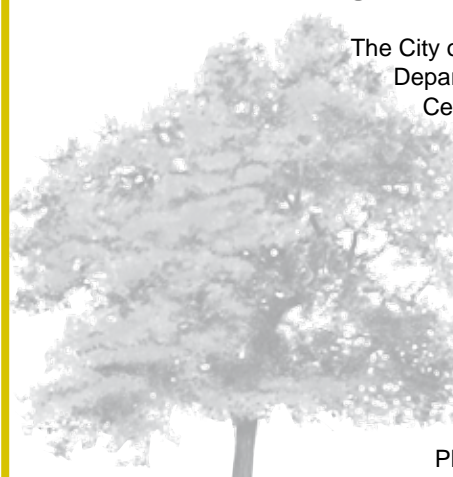


**Leaf-footed bug**  
*Leptoglossus phyllopus*

### What is that thing!

This little insect may be a familiar sight in the fall and winter, as many people find them crawling in their house. Known as a leaf-footed bug because of the leaf-like structure on each hind leg, these odd-looking creatures search out a place to hibernate through the winter and appear again in the spring in an attempt to access the outside world. Leaf-footed bugs are not harmful to humans and use their straw-like mouth to suck juices from plants. The leaf-footed bug belongs to the family of insects known as Coreidae, of which there are around 1,800 known species.

## FOR THE LOVE OF TREES



The City of Cape Girardeau Parks and Recreation Department, Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center, and Southeast Missouri State University present "FOR THE LOVE OF TREES", a spring workshop series highlighting the benefits of trees in the community. These workshops are possible through a grant awarded by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Each workshop is free and held from 9am – Noon. There is a small materials fee of \$15 for each workshop. Register for one or all three. Payment is required to save your space which is limited to the first 30 registrations. **Ages 13 and up.** Please save these dates:

- **Saturday, February 2** – Trees, Their Benefits and ROI (Return on Investment)  
Registration Deadline: Friday, January 25th
- **Saturday, March 2** – Tree Identification and Characteristics  
Registration Deadline: Friday, February 22th
- **Saturday, April 6** – Tree Placement, Planting and Care  
Registration Deadline: Friday, March 29th

All sessions will be held at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center and registration will be through the Cape Girardeau Parks and Recreation Department, 410 Kiwanis Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
573-339-6340 (dboyer@cityofcapegirardeau.org)



# February Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **February 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

## Eagle Days

**Saturday  
February 2  
9am - 4pm**

Duck Creek  
Conservation Area  
and  
Mingo National Wildlife Refuge



## 7 Habitat for Bluebirds Thursday, 6:30-8pm

Bluebirds are a joy to have around and providing housing for them is a fun way to help their populations grow. You or your family can learn tips to be a good bluebird landlord and construct a nest box to take home. All materials provided. Select from one of two days to attend. **All ages. (Ages under 16 require an adult.)** Registration required. **Early registration begins January 15**

## 9 Habitat for Bluebirds Saturday, 9:30-11am

See details for February 7 program. **All ages. (Ages under 16 require an adult.)** Registration required. **Early registration begins January 15**

## The Great Backyard Bird Count February 15-18

Count birds in your backyard, at a local park, or anywhere. Involve the family and participate anytime during the weekend. No cost and lots of fun. For details on participating, visit [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

## 15/16 Hunter Education Friday, 5:30-9:30pm Saturday, 8am-4pm

If you plan to hunt alone with a firearm, and you were born on or after January 1, 1967, you will need to take and pass a hunter education course before you can buy a permit. Students must be 11 years of age at the start of the class. You must attend both sessions (Friday and Saturday) and pass a test to receive certification. Bring any previously purchased fishing or hunting permit. Those 15 and under must also provide proof of age. **You must pre-register for this course online at [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov). For more information, call 573-290-5730.**

## 16 Tanning Your Own Hide Saturday, 8am-3pm

Hide tanning is a practical skill for hunters and trappers and can add enjoyment to well-earned outdoor memories. Learn how to properly skin, scrape, preserve and soften a mammal hide with the hair on. Please bring your own latex gloves and pocket knife. **Ages 12 and up. Registration required.**

## 19 Bringing Martins Home Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm

Purple martins rely on man-made nesting structures for survival and watching them interact around the yard can be exciting. Whether you're trying to attract martins, have an existing colony or are just interested in learning more, you'll enjoy this program. Purple martin specialist Jerry Hampton will be on hand to answer your questions. **Ages 8 and up. No registration required.**

## 21 Nature Center at Night Botanical Folklore Thursday, 5-8pm

Do you know which plant killed Socrates, or which common lawn weed can be used to treat bee stings? Attend our 45-minute auditorium presentation at 6pm to learn the legends and lore behind some of our common Missouri plants. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.**

## 21 Nature Art Pastel Drawing Thursday, 6:30-8pm

Pastel drawing is a quick, easy way to capture an image on paper. Join us for an evening of colorful fun as we discuss pastel drawing supplies and techniques and then create some beautiful art. Bring a reference photo or use the nature center and its surroundings as your subject. Select from one of two days to attend. **Ages 16 and up. Registration required.**

## 23 Maple Sugaring Saturday, 1-5pm

Discover one of the forest's sweetest gifts. Maple sugaring is rich in history and still practiced today. Learn the history, equipment, and process of making maple syrup. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.**



## 23 Nature Art Pastel Drawing Saturday, 2-3:30pm

See details for February 21 program. **Ages 16 and up. Registration required.**

## Temporary Display

Visit the nature center's gallery during February to view "Natural Encounters," a photography exhibit by Sonya Buerck.

## COMING IN MARCH

## 8 Bringing Nature Home and Native Plant Sale Friday, 6-8pm

Gardening in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore. Learn from Douglas Tallamy, highly acclaimed author of *Bringing Nature Home*, the essentials of keeping our yards and gardens in working order and the consequences of failing to do so. Native plant vendors will be on hand for your convenience. **Ages 11 and up. Registration required. Early registration begins February 15**



## 9 Native Plant Seminar Saturday

The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Cape Girardeau County Master Gardeners host the seventh annual native plant seminar. Special presenter Douglas Tallamy, author of the highly acclaimed book *Bringing Nature Home*, will dispel native plant misconceptions and suggest ways to make your property a showpiece using native plants without losing their ecological function in the local ecosystem. Call the nature center about session times and other guest speakers. **Ages 18 and up. Registration is free and begins February 1. Register early as seating is limited for each session.**

*We help people discover nature.*

## Thank You

**Donations of Time, Materials, and Service**  
**Craft paper: Lyn Summer**  
**Book and print: Sandy Moore**

## Donor Stones

*Pat Haenni in memory of Viola Wright*



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[facebook.com/mdconline](https://facebook.com/mdconline)



[youtube.com/user/moconservation](https://youtube.com/user/moconservation)



## Join Those who are Making a Difference

People who volunteer their time and talents at the nature center play very important roles in meeting the conservation education needs of the public. They create wonderful learning environments, provide warm welcomes, assist in day-to-day needs, and care for live animals and the garden areas. In turn, they enjoy working with children and adults as well as with other conservation-minded staff and volunteers.

If you are interested in working as a Nature Center Volunteer, we invite you to attend the **volunteer information meeting and reception Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30pm**. You'll learn more about the program, its opportunities and requirements, hear from current volunteers about their involvement and experiences, and receive answers to your questions.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is currently taking applications for volunteers. There are many ways you can volunteer your time and talents, give back to the community and help "connect people with the land." Following acceptance into the program, new volunteers attend training classes and receive hands-on preparation according to their interests and involvement.

Some volunteer opportunities include:

**Conservation Ambassador** – Welcome visitors; help people find information and register for programs; assist with nature shop sales.

**Conservation Naturalist** – Assist with and present programs for youth and adults; help create new activities, games and discovery stations for events; represent the nature center at off-site programs.

**Animal Care Assistant** – Feed, clean and care for various native amphibians, reptiles and fish on a weekly or monthly basis; occasionally set up new displays for live animals.

**Naturescaping Team** – Manage the native garden beds including mulching, weeding, transplanting and collecting seed; assist with public inquiries regarding the flowers and plants they see.

For more information or to receive an application, please stop in or contact Steven Juhlin at 573-290-5218 or [steven.juhlin@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:steven.juhlin@mdc.mo.gov).



*Hollie Lybarger feeds salamanders*



*Jeanie Haertling conducts an exit survey*



*Steve Shelton helps children explore aquatic animals*



*Michael Fiehler presents information at Migratory Bird Day*

## Volunteer Milestones

### 100 Hours

Ivas Dambruskas  
Debbie Gregory  
Hollie Lybarger  
Brittany Singleton

### 400 Hours

Byron Foust  
Jeanie Haertling

### 750 Hours

Michael Fiehler  
Jane Nicholas

### 500 Hours

Steve Shelton

### 2000 Hours

Sue Corvick





# Educators' Niche

For more information or to register for the trainings below, please call Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5218 or e-mail [bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov)

## Discover Nature Schools

The Discover Nature Schools (DNS) program provides new and interesting curriculum that incorporates hands-on outdoor activities featuring Missouri ecosystems. **Teaching students outside has been shown to help improve test scores and help with behavior issues.** Each unit comes with excellent teacher and student guides. These materials are free to public, private, or homeschool educators. Grant monies are also available for field trips and supplies for K-12 teachers in the public or private school sectors. **New this year – DNS may be taught during summer school!**

## Nature Across the Curriculum

Learn how you can incorporate nature across the curriculum! No matter the grade or subject you teach, using the natural world can enhance student learning. This workshop will be held at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center November 30-December 1 from 8am-5pm. Graduate credit is available through SEMO. Registration is required.

## Nature Deficit Disorder Tidbit

**Studies have shown that students who spend more time outside in nature are better problem solvers!**

## December

### Discover Missouri Natural Areas

A great new book helps nature lovers experience these special places firsthand. In this beautiful, user-friendly guide, author Mike Leahy, the Department's natural areas coordinator, provides natural history information that brings to life the outstanding geological, biological and ecological features of 50 areas.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$7.20 plus tax**

### KC Wildlands

Discover and explore some of the best examples of the Kansas City area's original natural communities. Twelve sites on public lands in the metro area feature beautiful forests and remnant prairies, glades and savannas. Maps and great color photography accompany information about each site.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$4.80 plus tax**

## January & February

### Tried and True Plants

Gardeners will find this book indispensable. Its 60-plus pages catalog 111 wildflowers, ferns, grasses, sedges, vines, shrubs, and trees for every imaginable landscape use with notes on growing needs of each. Gorgeous color photos make it suitable for coffee table display.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$4.80 plus tax**

### Native Landscaping

Dave Tylka, a biology professor at St. Louis Community College, shows you how to use native midwestern plants to beautify your property and benefit wildlife. From sun and shade to birds and butterfly landscapes, this book has a little something for everyone.



**Discounted price:**  
**\$14.40 plus tax**



The  
**Nature Shop**

**20% off\***

these monthly  
specials!

*\*Special monthly discounts ...  
(Conservation Heritage Card  
discounts do not apply)*

The Nature Shop features a variety of nature-related books, videos/ DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

### Remember...



**HOLIDAY  
SALE**

**December 18-22**  
**Details on calendar pages!**

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99. The building is open Tuesday through Saturday 8am to 5pm and is closed Sundays and Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The area is open daily from sunrise to 10pm in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park Rules and Regulations.

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages. The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.

Phone: 573/290-5218; Fax: 573/290-5566; Internet: [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape)



# Maple Sugaring

Saturday, February 23

1pm – 5pm

- Learn how to identify sugar maples
- Observe the sugaring process

No registration required. Call the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center at 573-290-5218 for more information.



## NATIVE PLANT SEMINAR

Saturday, March 9



The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Cape Girardeau County Master Gardeners are partnering for the seventh year to bring you the native plant seminar. Using native plants in your landscape benefits wildlife, adds variety and color to your landscape and is a great alternative to the traditional manicured lawn. Call for more information about event activities, guest speakers, and registration requirements. Seminar registration is free and begins February 1.



### Native Plant Sale



Purchasing native plants in southeast Missouri is not always easy. If you want to get started, a Missouri supplier will be on hand during the seminar so you can purchase native plants for your landscape. You can do so by stopping by the nature center anytime during the day or visit [www.grownative.org](http://www.grownative.org) to learn more about native species and suppliers.

